

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

15-7  
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September 25, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: October Missile Crisis - Senator  
Symington's Statement

I spoke to Mr. McGhee, Senator Symington's Press  
Secretary, about the attached letter from the Senator,  
enclosing a speech excerpt.

1. McGhee said that the excerpt was from a speech  
which the Senator gave in Lexington, Missouri, on  
September 12. McGhee said the speech did not get  
much publicity outside of local papers.

2. McGhee said that the speech has not been inserted  
in the Congressional Record, adding that it would not be  
difficult to do so. He went on to say that, on the one hand,  
the item isn't hot and might not attract any attention. On  
the other hand, columnists who do read the Record might  
conceivably find it useful in refuting the Goldwater Seattle  
statement.

3. If you want to get this speech inserted into the Congre-  
sional Record, please let me know and I will ask McGhee if  
he will have it done.

*GC*  
Gordon Chase

*call it to - and then  
Casper's attention*

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United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 23, 1964

Dear Mac:

Here are the facts, based on the record.

Hubert did tremendously well with this subject in Kansas City.

Good luck and kind regards.

Sincerely,

Stuart Symington

Mr. McGeorge Bundy  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

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"Senator Goldwater's recent attack, in Seattle, on the late President Kennedy, when he charged the latter with timing the Cuban missile crisis for political reasons at home, is not borne out by the record.

"Both Senator Goldwater and I are members of the Senate Military Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee; and in the Spring of 1963 this Subcommittee held extended hearings on the sudden Soviet military build-up in Cuba during October 1962.

"In the last two days I have carefully re-read the record of those hearings -- and in the absence of President Kennedy, who is no longer here to defend himself, I am glad to report that the President moved with great dispatch after approving every single recommendation made by the head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"On the same day that the President received firm information the Soviets were moving strategic missiles into Cuba, he so informed Congressional leaders. Within four days after the information was confirmed, he had completed the military buildup considered necessary in case the U.S.S.R. decided not to remove the missiles upon his demand, had informed our allies of the details of the development, had evacuated our dependents from Guantanamo, and had landed Marines at that base. Thereupon the President promptly notified the American people of the crisis, and told them what he intended to do about it.

"In other words, the record shows the matter was handled efficiently, and, for which we can all be very grateful, effectively. Cool courage was combined with restraint. The President knew the holocaust that would follow a full scale nuclear exchange.

"He knew also, however, that life would not be worth living without freedom; and he acted accordingly.

"Let us hope that in the future our leaders will continue to use our unparalleled power with prudence. In World War I our battle deaths were 53,000. In World War II they were 291,000. It is now estimated, by the experts, that a short but full scale nuclear exchange would eliminate the existence of any possible aggressor. In turn, however, some 100,000,000 Americans would be killed.

"For that reason alone, the importance of restraint with firmness as exemplified in the Cuban crisis of 1962 and recently in the Tonkin Gulf, could not be overemphasized. Nobody can truly gain from a hydrogen sunset.

~~"This is why it is so important for the world to work, if possible, under some form of international agreement.~~

"This United States became great because it has always operated as a government under law. Throughout the world we have become the symbol of freedom under law; and in law we have placed our faith.

"This faith was well expressed long ago by Jean Jacques Rousseau, when he said:

'It is to law alone that men owe justice and liberties . . . It is with this voice alone that political leaders should speak, when they command.'"